

TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 21, 2005 - 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Hundt at 7:15 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was conducted.

Emergency Exits were pointed out by the Supervisor.

Roll Call:

Councilman Devine	Present
Councilman Russell	Present
Councilwoman Doyle	Absent
Councilman Carroll	Present
Supervisor Hundt	Present

BUSINESS APPRECIATION NIGHT

The first order of business was to introduce the new business owners who had attended the new business reception preceding the Town Board meeting. About 20 new business owners were introduced. Chamber of Commerce President Garrett Corcoran made a few remarks and thanked the Town Board for the opportunity to highlight new businesses in town.

D.C. WATER AND WASTEWATER AUTHORITY PRESENTATION

A presentation was made by Bridget Barclay of Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority. She made the following points:

- The Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority (DCWWA) was created in 1992 as a public benefit organization and a separate legal entity managed and run by its own board of directors.
- DCWWA was created to work with municipalities on water and sewer activities in the county, from planning to operation and maintenance.
- DCWWA currently owns and operates ten systems in the county - seven water systems and three sewer systems.
- DCWWA has a full-time professional staff and a business unit to run the systems that they own.
- Community septic systems are used throughout New York state. They have not been used extensively in Dutchess County because of ownership and maintenance questions.
- DCWWA is willing to work with the Town of Amenia to develop a community septic system for the Amenia Hills subdivision. If the town wants to own a system, then DCWWA can help out with planning and operations, management, billing, bookkeeping, etc.
- The process involves looking at both technical and financial aspects of a system. DCWWA would review development plans and specifications, expected operations and maintenance, long-term capital. The goal is to maintain rate stability and to accumulate capital reserve funds.
- All DCWWA projects require several levels of approvals, including public meetings, Town Board support, state and county permits, etc.
- DCWWA currently operates three sewer systems: Dalton Farms and Chelsea Cove in the Town of Beekman and Valley Vale in Pleasant Valley. The DCWWA board and staff are comfortable that they could have the resources to help Amenia.

- The Health Department will not approve a community septic system unless there is clear public ownership and responsibility. DCWWA asks the town or county to create a sewer district so that bonding can be used for capital expenditures.
- The Dalton Farms project is currently serving 560 customers but has extra capacity to expand. The system is a Rotating Biological Contact (RBC) sewer system with a 220,000 gallon per day capacity. A contract operator is used providing eight hours a day of on-site staffing and 24-hour service. The annual cost per household is \$270 for operations and maintenance and \$240 for capital cost assessment. (Each project run by DCWWA is a separate entity so the rates vary based on operation costs and the number of customers.) The Dalton Farms sewer plant is enclosed completely inside a building. The sludge (solid waste) is removed every two months, based on the size of the holding tank.
- DCWWA has projects "in the works" similar to the Amenia project. Typically, a Memo of Understanding is signed by the DCWWA and the municipality. Once the plant has been constructed and certified, a bill of sale may be executed.
- A community septic system is as reliable as an individual septic system if properly built and maintained.
- Costs for community septic can be calculated as a flat rate or a metered rate based on water usage. So much of the cost of operation is fixed that a flat rate makes sense. However, people often prefer a metered rate because it encourages conservation.
- Non-payment: if a customer in a community system does not pay, the county or town can re-levy the charges on behalf of the community system. This method guarantees that the community system (district) will get 100% of its revenues.
- In response to a question from the audience about why a town would want to cluster on a small scale (Amenia Hills), when the development is near the town water source, it is preferable to have a community septic system. Once a private individual septic is installed, there is no regulatory oversight or control by the town.
- In response to an audience question, in Dutchess County there are several older technology (sand filter) community septic systems that have failed. The newer technologies are better.
- If a subdivision (e.g. Amenia Hills) is clustered and a community septic created, then only the properties in the subdivision (district) share the cost. Other property owners are not affected.

AMENIA ISLAND CEMETERY

Bob Cook has requested a letter of intent from the Town Board stating that the town would take over the Amenia Island Cemetery. Michael Hayes explained that the Town could not legally take over the cemetery unless (1) the cemetery board of directors was dissolved, and (2) there were not sufficient funds in the accounts to maintain the cemetery. Supervisor Hundt asked the attorney to write a letter to Bob Cook explaining this.

GRANT WRITER REPORT

Mike Hagerty reported that he had met with Councilwoman Doyle to familiarize himself with the grant projects and to develop a prioritized list of tasks. The member item grant from Pat Manning to improve technology at town hall is ready to go, with the budget and project description already done. Mike has also met with Mike Morrison to discuss the Greenway downtown revitalization

grant. After about 10 hours of work, Mike Hagerty has developed a clear plan for the work of the grant writer.

RECREATION MASTER PLAN

John Ryan reported that he had met with the Recreation Commission and given them goals and objectives for recreation for the town. Supervisor Hundt read the goals:

- (1) provide new recreation facilities;
- (2) improve existing recreation facilities;
- (3) improve funding sources (DOT, etc.);
- (4) provide efficient administration of the parks and recreation system;
- (5) capitalize on the success of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and link recreation facilities.

John Ryan noted that the Recreation Master Plan project should be completed by year-end. The survey of recreational needs is almost completed, with a few questions remaining about who will get the survey and how will it be distributed. After a brief discussion, it was decided that all 1600 households in Amenia should get the survey. Councilman Russell commented that bulk rate mailing would probably be worth the cost.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: SALT SHED, WASSAIC SIDEWALKS AND LIGHTING

Stan Whitehead reported that the Wassaic sidewalks were done. However, a major problem has surfaced with the Wassaic lighting. Parks and Recreation require an archeological study of the area where the lights would go. There is no way that this can be accomplished in enough time to meet the grant deadline of August 31.

To solve this problem, Stan suggested changing the grant to Yellow City Road improvements, which were already scheduled for this year anyway. If the grant money could be used for that project, then the money in the Highway Department budget for the Yellow City Road project could be used for the Wassaic lights. Beth Doyle approved this change to the grant today.

Councilman Carroll said that there is no need to wait to put the Wassaic lights out to bid since the specs are already available. The ad should run for two weeks and the bid opening will be the day of the Town Board workshop, August 11.

RESOLUTION TO PUT WASSAIC STREET LIGHTS OUT TO BID

MOTION: C/Carroll

SECOND: C/Devine

ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - AYE C/Devine - AYE
 C/Doyle - absent C/Russell - AYE
 S/Hundt - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Supervisor Hundt read the resolution to amend the CDBG from "Wassaic Sidewalk Improvements and Antique Lighting" to "Wassaic Sidewalk Improvements and Yellow City Road Reconstruction".

RESOLUTION # 22 OF 2005: AMENDMENT TO CDBG FOR YELLOW CITY ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

MOTION: S/Hundt

SECOND: C/Carroll

ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - AYE C/Devine - AYE
 C/Doyle - absent C/Russell - AYE
 S/Hundt - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

SALT SHED

Stan Whitehead reported that the soil test at the proposed site for the salt shed involved the drilling of eight holes. Unfortunately, a lot of wood was hit in the drilling. This means that the soil (perhaps down to 10 or 12 feet) would have to be removed and replaced, a very costly venture. An alternative is to look for another site for the salt shed. Councilman Carroll mentioned that Dave Luther's property (auction market) is for sale for an asking price of \$600,000 for the 12 acres. Allen Sand & Gravel is another potential site that the town has considered in the past.

Supervisor Hundt observed that we will definitely lose the grant for the salt shed now and that monies already collected would have to be repaid. This project has been going on since 1999.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER / FIRE INSPECTOR REPORT

Supervisor Hundt noted that Mike Segelken could not be present due to a family medical situation; however, Mike had presented a complete report at last week's Town Board workshop meeting.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Nancy Brusie noted that the Outdoor Storage and Junk Vehicle law had been processed through the state and that phone calls were now being made.

TOWN WELLS

Gary Bonds reminded everyone that water restrictions are currently in effect. The wells are keeping up with the demand but are getting close to the limit. Gary met with the County Health Department (Jim Napoli) and Morris Assoc. (John Lazaroni) to discuss a new well to be placed at the site of well #4 on Lavell Road. Morris Assoc will take care of the permits. The good news is that money has been put away for this purpose (a new well). For the past five years, \$25,000 was put aside each year.

A problem occurred with one of our two generators last week, taking out a water pump, a fan and a radiator in the process. Having only one generator running means that we can produce only 38 gallons of water a minute, giving us a one-and-a-half to two-day supply. There is \$23,000 in the water department budget for emergencies such as this.

Gary also reported that he observed very little drop in usage after the water restrictions were instituted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

After discussion and clarification from Town Attorney Michael Hayes, Supervisor Hundt, with Board approval, decided that an Executive Session was not necessary to deal with the legal aspects of the Silo Ridge project and lead agency status.

SILLO RIDGE LEAD AGENCY

Supervisor Hundt announced that the Town Board had received a Lead Agency Coordination Request for the Silo Ridge project. After some discussion, it was decided that the Planning Board would better serve the role of lead agency (rather than the Town Board). The Town Board can still take legislative action (e.g. the text change amendment to add a special permitted use in the RA and M zones, to allow the hotel), even if it is not the lead agency. The Town Board

will be an "involved" agency and can make a findings statement after the Draft and Final EIS (Environmental Impact Statements) have been submitted. Attorney Daniel Leary, representing Silo Ridge, gave his support for the Planning Board being the lead agency.

MOTION TO DEFER LEAD AGENCY STATUS FOR SILO RIDGE PROJECT TO THE PLANNING BOARD.

MOTION: S/Hundt
SECOND: C/Russell
ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - AYE C/Devine - AYE
 C/Doyle - absent C/Russell - AYE
 S/Hundt - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

SILO RIDGE PRESENTATION

Mike Farius of Chazen Assoc. gave an overview of the Silo Ridge project including several architectural drawings.

BOOKKEEPER ASSISTANT

Supervisor Hundt noted that a bookkeeper's assistant was needed primarily to help with the budget process. There is a budget line for \$5,000 for a "budget officer" that has not been used and could be utilized for the bookkeeper's assistant. After some discussion, it was decided to advertise for a temporary part-time position. If a permanent position is needed, that must be created by a separate line item at budget time. Conceivably, the temporary position could be expanded to include other year-round duties.

MOTION TO ADVERTISE BOOKKEEPER ASSISTANT (TEMPORARY, PART-TIME).

MOTION: S/Hundt
SECOND: C/Russell
ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - NO C/Devine - AYE
 C/Doyle - absent C/Russell - AYE
 S/Hundt - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 3 to 1.

DANCE PROGRAM STAFF

Amenia has a grant for a dance program from the Dutchess County Youth Bureau. The program is for 5 - 6 weeks of instruction for approximately 40 youths ages 5 to 15 years, to comply with the grant.

MOTION TO ADVERTISE FOR DANCE TEACHER AND ASSISTANT (2 POSITIONS).

MOTION: S/Hundt
SECOND: C/Russell
ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - AYE C/Devine - AYE
 C/Doyle - absent C/Russell - AYE
 S/Hundt - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

CONSTABLE

After 24 years of service, Constable John Conto is retiring. The position is 12 - 15 hours per month and requires a firearm permit. There are many other qualifications which can be detailed with applicants after resumes are received.

MOTION TO ADVERTISE FOR CONSTABLE.

MOTION: S/Hundt

SECOND: C/Carroll
ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - AYE C/Devine - AYE
C/Doyle - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Hundt - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

TOWN HALL USE BY POLITICAL PARTIES

Supervisor Hundt read a list of proposed rules for the use of Town Hall by political parties. It was suggested that something be added for prior notice and a food restriction. There was some question about what constituted a "reasonable fee", which is a requirement of the NYS Comptroller's Office in these situations. Supervisor Hundt asked Councilman Devine to come up with a suggested reasonable fee for the next Town Board meeting. The request was then passed on to Lana to research. Regarding pre-arranged access and lock-up, it was suggested that a stipend may be paid for performing the service of unlocking and locking the building. Supervisor Hundt said that the list of rules would be updated for the next Town Board meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) ACTIONS

Supervisor Hundt detailed three changes confirmed by the DOT:

- (1) Establish a school speed zone of 25 miles per hour on Route 44 in front of Amenia Elementary School. After this has been done, portable panels to mark the cross walk may be used on school days from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- (2) Establish a 30 mile per hour speed limit on Route 343 from Route 44 intersection east 3/10 mile to the end of the sidewalk opposite the cemetery. There will be a marked cross walk at the intersection with Mechanic Street.
- (3) Establish a 30 mile per hour speed zone on Route 44 from the intersection 4/10 mile west to the end of the hamlet. The passing zone from Dill's Best to the park driveway will be eliminated.

MINUTES

None to approve at this time.

BIKE NY REQUEST FOR SHERIFF SERVICES

Supervisor Hundt enumerated the three sites where Sheriff staff are needed for the Harlem Valley Rail Ride on July 31:

- (1) Route 343 and rail trail crossing;
- (2) Metro North station in Wassaic;
- (3) Deep Hollow Road and Route 22 in Wassaic.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO SHERIFF WITH REIMBURSEMENT FROM BIKE NEW YORK.

MOTION: C/Devine
SECOND: C/Russell
ROLL CALL: C/Carroll - AYE C/Devine - AYE
C/Doyle - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Hundt - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Clerk: Monthly status report for June (attached).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CAC

Elizabeth Whaley gave a brief report on the successful Discover Nature walk sponsored by the CAC on Sunday July 10. She thanked community members who have submitted issues to the CAC and informed them that the CAC is awaiting feedback from the DEC on these issues.

WASTEWATER

Darlene Reimer praised the presentations by the DC Water and Wastewater Authority and Silo Ridge. She pointed out that constructed wetlands are becoming an acceptable technology (for wastewater treatment). The next Wastewater meeting will be July 25 at 5:00.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

1. Animal Control. Anyone needing the phone number of the animal control person should call Town Hall.
2. Ambulance Service (paid) - meeting this week was cancelled.
3. Christmas in April. The press release describing this program was read. The application deadline is September 15.
4. Annual Chicken BBQ for senior citizens will be held on August 13 from 11:00 to 3:00 at Wassaic Firehouse.

BOOKKEEPER REPORT

Supervisor Hundt read the Bookkeepers Report:

From Jan. 1, 2005 through June 30 the town earned interest on investments in the amount of \$10,505.13.

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Morton Thompson III

Is the town going to set a deadline for Sharon Kroeger to put up a fence (around Maxon Mills)? Supervisor Hundt said that Mike Segelken had drafted a letter to Sharon Kroeger which will give her 30 days to get the fence in place. After 30 days, the Town could bring enforcement proceedings if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was voted for unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hermosilla,
Amenia Town Clerk

Approved by Town Board: August 18, 2005

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Town Clerk Monthly Status Report for June 2005
July 21, 2005

Regular Monthly Activity:

Dog licenses	12
Marriage licenses	8
Birth certificate copies	1
Death certificate copies	1
Zoning books sold	2
Miscellaneous copies	131
Transfer station permits	27
Transfer station coupon books	149
Burning permits issued	4
FOILs received	1
Legal notices sent	1
Handicap parking permits	13

Other activity

A Fireworks permit was issued for the Amenia Fire Company's 4th of July display. We have implemented a new procedure whereby the Town Clerk Office notifies the Fire Inspector (Mike Segelken) whenever a fireworks permit is issued. Mike can then do the necessary inspection.

Software Training

On July 13, Patty Barron attended a training session on the BAS software system that we use in the Town Clerk office. This was a free training session that takes place every year, but not usually in our part of the state.

Burning Permits

Last week we temporarily suspended the issuance of burning permits, so I wanted to explain the procedure. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has authorized the Town Clerk and the Fire Inspector to issue "Restricted Burning Permits". The issuance of these permits may be suspended for several reasons:

1. If the State suspends burning due to state-wide conditions.
2. If the Town decides to suspend burning permits, due to local conditions. In this case, the Town Clerk office and the Fire Inspector will make a joint decision, with input from the Fire Company if possible. This local procedure has been approved by the DEC.

To reiterate, the Town always has the authority to suspend the issuance of burning permits if we feel it is not safe to burn for whatever reason. In the Town Clerk office, we would rather err on the side of caution, than to waste the valuable time of our volunteer fire fighters on an fire that was avoidable.

Town Clerk Office hours by appointment

The policy of the Town Clerk office to be open by appointment is working out well. Three weeks ago, we got a call from an engaged couple in Fishkill. They needed to get their marriage license and Saturday was the only day possible. Unfortunately, there is not a single town clerk in Dutchess County who has Saturday hours in the summer. So, I met with them on Saturday June 25 and issued their marriage license. So, just to clarify, if someone needs Town Clerk services outside of our regular office hours, they can simply make an appointment and we will be more than happy to help them.

Thank you.

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